MMCP Collaboration

The effects of changing flows on basal resource productivity and quality

This project, is one of five research themes that make up MMCP. This research theme investigated the biofilm succession patterns and ecosystem dynamics in the Edward-Wakool River system.

Biofilm

Biofilm is a community of microorganisms that form a thin layer adhered to hard surfaces, and are an important food source, providing the base for higher order consumers, e.g. invertebrates, fish and water birds.

We investigated

Microbial processing of dissolved organic carbon (DOC), successional patterns of biofilms following inundation and stream metabolic dynamics in three adjacent lowland rivers during a high flow period. Information surrounding basal food quality under such scenarios is of particular applied interest, since a better understanding of how biofilm quality and ecosystem function changes through time could help inform decision making by water managers for optimisation of flow duration.

Key findings and Management implications

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<th>Key Findings</th>
<th>Management implications</th>
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<td>• Biofilms respond to environmental drivers.</td>
<td>• Consideration of flow duration to optimise biofilm quality.</td>
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<td>• Inundation duration of up to 11 weeks provides high quality biofilms.</td>
<td>• Maintain 5-11 weeks of substrate submersions.</td>
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Further information

MMCP Collaboration (MMCP) is a project supported by the Joint State Governments and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority to generate and adopt freshwater ecological knowledge through collaboration, to maintain research capability and contribute supporting science to underpin the Basin-Wide Watering Strategy.

**MMCP Collaboration Final report:**
doi.org/10.26181/5d19927544b20

**Biofilm report:**
doi.org/10.26181/5d19904d570e9

**Other biofilm factsheets:**
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